

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because of certain informalities. To correct the informality in claim 1, the phrase "in which method" has been amended to read --the method comprising the steps of--. Applicant submits that this amendment addresses the objection to claim 1.

Claim 1 has also been extensively amended to improve the syntax and grammar of the claim. More particularly, "defining a fingerprint" has been changed to --forming a fingerprint--. Support for the word "forming" may be found on page 8, line 9 of the specification. Also, "defining the difference" has been changed to --deriving the difference-- as the difference is obtained from calculation rather than being defined. Further, "a normal process situation" has been changed to --an online momentary process situation-- so there is antecedent basis for "the momentary process situation." Support for the process situation being "online" may be found on page 6, line 19 of the specification. Moreover, "relative to runnability" has been changed to --with respect to runnability-- to clarify that process situations are good or poor based upon runnability. Other grammatical and syntactical changes have also been made to claim 1.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, certain terms in claim 1 were found to be relative terms that render the claim indefinite.

With respect to the term "large number" in claim 1, applicant submits that the specification does provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree. Page 6, lines 5 through 7 of the specification read: "Negative fingerprints are generally based on a rather small group of variables (3 - 6). A good fingerprint, on the contrary, is based on many variables (10 - 20)." Hence, it is clear from the specification that a "large number" of

variables used to define a fingerprint according to a good process situation as claimed in claim 1 is greater than 6 variables and generally in the range of 10 to 20 variables. Therefore, applicant submits that the term "large number" is not indefinite.

With respect to the term "good process situation" in claim 1, applicant respectfully disagrees that this term is indefinite. It is clear from the specification and even from the claims that a "good process situation with respect to runnability" is one in which the process is running properly and achieving desired results. For example, page 6, lines 24 through 32 of the specification state: "Generally, runnability and quality are kept on target by monitoring the fingerprints of good situations in each sub-process. If a deviation then appears, the cause of the fault or deviation in general will be found considerably faster, if runnability indices relating to the operational sub-process of the paper machine are available. One improved embodiment additionally uses special detection of specific poor fingerprints." Hence, it is clear that a "good process situation" is one in which the runnability and quality of the process are kept at target values. Further, merely because the term "good" is by itself a relative term does not necessarily render the term "good process situation" indefinite as it is clear that good process situations are desirable, target process situations as opposed to undesirable, off-target process situations. For these reasons, applicant submits that the term "good process situation" as used in the claim 1 is not indefinite.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is definite and respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2 - 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable based upon the reasons stated above. Claims 2 - 7, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are themselves in allowable form.

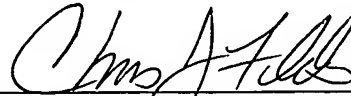
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This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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